

REMARKS

By the present amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 4, 6, and 12, and canceled Claim 9. Claims 1, 4-8, and 10-21 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 12, 14 and 20 are independent claims.

The claims in this application have been revised to more particularly define Applicant's unique construction in view of the prior art of record. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendments and for the following reasons is respectfully requested.

The amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, the above amendments incorporate features of now-canceled Dependent Claim 9 into Independent Claim 1. Other amendments are provided merely for purposes of clarity. Thus, no new issues are raised.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objects to Claims 4, 6 and 12. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments to Claims 4, 6 and 12 make moot the grounds for objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 6-9, and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu et al in view of AAPA. Further, Claims 4, 5 and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babu

and AAPA in view of Canon. Additionally, Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barroux in view of Babu and AAPA. Further, Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Barroux , Babu and AAPA in view of Simionescu et al.

Applicant will advance arguments hereinbelow to illustrate the manner in which the presently claimed invention is patentably distinguishable from the cited and applied prior arts. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The Babu reference is directed towards network device information collection and change detection. As the Examiner has noted, the Babu reference discloses a network 108 and a plurality of network devices 118a-118c, such as routers, switches and other backbone devices that guide data communications among client 104 and servers 102 as shown in Fig. 1 of Babu. However, network 108 corresponds to, in fact, a network equipment system, such as element 210 of Fig. 6 of the present invention, and network devices 118a-118c correspond to individual pieces of network equipments 211, 213 and 215 of Fig. 6 of the present invention (Please see Col. 6 Lines 34 to 40 of Babu and Par. 7 of the present invention).

In contradistinction, the present invention is directed towards a site connected to one or more interfaces of each piece of network equipment 211, 213, 215 as shown in Fig. 6. Particularly, the present invention includes a site connected to ports 1-8 of modules M11-

M19. The device name, domain name, device type, etc. of Babu correspond to interface information related to each piece of network equipment of the present invention, but not identification information indicating the site. The network devices 118a-118c are separate and distinct from a site, as defined in the subject Patent Application. Rather than teaching or suggesting a site, the Babu reference just discloses individual network devices, such as a router, a Gateway Server, etc. corresponding to each piece of network equipments 211,213 or 215 of the present invention. (See Par. 7 of the present invention).

The Examiner mentioned that Babu discloses “the identification information is a code or identification characters based on device name, domain name”, disclosed in Col. 7, Line 66 to Col. 8 line 6. However, Babu just discloses a kind of interface information related to the network devices 118a -118c, and not information that can identify a site connected to one or more interfaces of each piece of network equipment of the present invention.

More specifically, the Examiner recited that interface information is device data including device name, domain name, and type as the grounds of the rejection of claim 10. In addition, the Examiner mentioned that in Table 1 of Babu, the first record has 3 sub-codes containing a SysObjectID, a device type, and a device class as the grounds of the rejection; regarding the features of the present invention, “each code is granted according to pre-defined rules in order to identify a predetermined site by steps and comprised of multi-step sub codes”. However, the first code has just one code indicating each network device. For

example, “1.3.6.1.4.1.9.1” is a kind of code of a SysObjectID related to network device 118a, 118b or 118c, respectively. “Router Gateway Server” is just a device type indicating the network device. “Cisco Router” is a device class, which shows classifying of each network device. Accordingly, the Babu fails to disclose or teach the features of the present invention above.

The Examiner further noted that in Fig. 4 of AAPA, “subcodes are department, node, equipment name, etc.” as the grounds of the rejection regarding the features of the present invention, and that “each said identification code comprising a plurality of multi-step sub-codes”. However, department, node, equipment name, etc. in Fig. 4 were not the identification code. In AAPA, index is only allocated to, for example, “ABC company New Jersey branch office”, and the index is not allocated to, for example, “department, node, equipment name, etc.” Accordingly, Babu and/or AAPA, when take alone or together, fails to disclose or teach the features of the present invention, namely, “said network equipment system comprises a plurality of site units, the interface information being set in each said site unit forming the network equipment system, each said site unit having an identification code associated therewith such that a predetermined site unit may be identified, whereby each said identification code is defined by user-selectable rules, each said identification code comprising a plurality of multi-step sub-codes.”

Further, the Babu reference fails to teach or suggest the particular functions of the automatic management module of the present invention. Specifically, the Babu reference does not teach, or even suggest, a system for managing interface changes/transformations coupled with a site code manager. Similarly, with regard to methodology, the Babu reference does not teach or even suggest the generation of codes, based upon user-selectable, pre-defined rules, in order to identify a pre-determined site, which is a key step in the present inventive methodology.

Although the Examiner has also cited the Canon reference, the Barroux reference and the of Simionescu reference, taken in various combination with Babu, none of the these references, when taken alone or together, teach the granting of codes according to a set of pre-defined, user-selectable rules, with each code being comprised of a plurality of multi-step codes. A similar setting of the interface information according to a pre-defined set of user-selectable rules takes place in the present inventive system, which is similarly not shown in any of the cited references, when taken alone or in combination.

Thus, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: "... said network equipment system comprises a plurality of site units, the interface information being set in each said site unit forming the network equipment system, each said site unit having an identification code associated therewith such that a predetermined site unit may be identified, whereby each said identification code is defined by user-selectable rules, each

said identification code comprising a plurality of multi-step sub-codes ...”, as is clearly provided by newly-amended Independent Claim 1. In addition, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: “wherein the network management system reads interface information of each piece of automatic management target equipment, adopts the code granted to a predetermined site interfaced with each piece of network equipment as primary information, compares the primary information with the already registered information and corrects any change”, as is clearly provided by newly-amended Independent Claim 1. The above arguments can be similarly applied to Claims 10,12,14 and 20.

Further, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: “...wherein said automatic management module comprises a management target equipment list portion for managing interface changes, and a site code management portion for enabling information matched with each code to be input and displayed, whereby the site code is granted to a site connected to a port of each piece of network equipment at a predetermined set of times using the management target list and comparing the collected information with the registration information in order to manage the network information automatically ...”, as is clearly provided by newly-amended independent Claim 10.

Additionally, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: "...wherein each said code is granted according to a set of pre-defined rules in order to identify a pre-determined site, each said code being comprised of a plurality of multi-step codes ...", as is clearly provided by newly-amended Independent Claim 12. Similarly, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: "... said interface information being set according to a set of user-selectable, pre-defined rules ... when the interface information has been corrected, changing the interface information using codes of the inputted or registered information ...", as is clearly provided by newly-amended Independent Claim 14. Additionally, neither the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference nor the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, provide for: "... interface information being set according to a set of user-selectable, pre-defined rules ...", as is clearly provided by newly-amended independent Claim 20.

Thus, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application is neither disclosed or taught by, nor made obvious by, either the Babu reference, the Canon reference, the Barroux reference or the Simionescu reference, when taken alone or in combination, when the Independent are carefully reviewed.

Application No. 10/607,257
Art Unit 2152

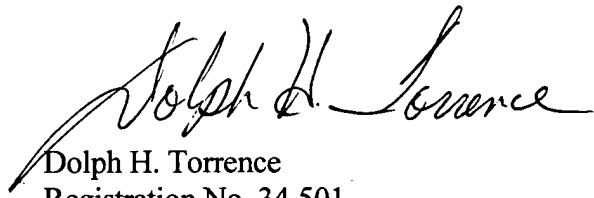
Attorney Docket No. 22987.03
Confirmation No. 4790

It is now believed that the remaining dependent claims show patentable distinction over the prior art cited by the Examiner for at least the same reasons as those given above with respect to the independent claims.

The remaining references provided by Applicant, but not used in the rejection, have been reviewed, but are believed to be further removed than those cited by the Examiner in the rejection when patentable distinctions are taken into account.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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DHT:mdr

Attachments: Petition for Extension of Time (One month)
Check for \$60.00